

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 EUR-12
SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /035 W
-----070958Z 098533 /12/13
O R 070813Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1497
INFO USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON
SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. APRIL 6 IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION ENDED WITHOUT COMING TO VOTE ON SENEGALESE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD ALLOW SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM PARTICIPATION IN IOC MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES. DEBATE WILL RESUME MORNING APRIL 7, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BROUGHT TO VOTE BEFORE NOON.
2. SOLID OPPOSITION TO SENEGALESE PROPOSAL HARDENED EARLY IN DEBATE WITH ALL WEO'S AND MEXICO AND PHILIPPINES SPEAKING AGAINST. VIOLATION OF PRINCIPAL OF UNIVERSALITY PROVIDED COMMON GROUND FOR THESE INTERVENTIONS, WITH NEARLY AS MUCH ATTENTION DEVOTED TO OPPOSING INTERJECTION OF EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE INTO ORGRANIZATION WHOSE WORK IS NON POLITICAL.

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3. CLEAR INDICATION THAT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL WOULD BE DEFEATED BROUGHT SEVERAL MEMBERS TO INTRODUCE OTHER PROPOSALS AIMED AT AVOIDING A VOTE. ARGENTINA SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION BE PUT OFF, AND RECORD OF DEBATE AND PROPOSALS TO DATE SIMPLY BE FORWARDED TO IOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL BE FOUND ADMISSIBLE

SINCE RULES OF PROCEDURE DEMAND THAT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CONSIDER PROPOSALS BEFORE IT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE IOC ASSEMBLY.

4. SOVIETS ALSO SUBMITTED TONED-DOWN PROPOSAL REQUESTING THAT SOUTH AFRICA NOT BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE IOC. IT WILL PROBABLY BE BROUGHT TO A VOTE IF THE SENEGALESE PROPOSAL FAILS. IT SOLVES NONE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS OF ACTS OF EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF A MEMBER STATE WHICH THE SENEGALESE PROPOSAL ADDRESSES, AND WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL ALSO BE DEFEATED.

5. WESTERN BLOC PROPOSAL (US, CANADA, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, UK, AND JAPAN) THAT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL BE REJECTED WAS ALSO TABLED AND PRESUMABLY WILL BE VOTED ON FIRST SINCE IT IS FARTHEST AWAY FROM ORIGINAL. WE EXPECT THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL CARRY.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF US DEL. INTERVENTION DURING APRIL 6 DEBATE:

"MR. CHAIRMAN: WE FEEL WE MUST EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS AND VIEWS ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT PROPOSED AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE IOC STATUTES TO PERMIT THE SUSPENSION OF THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOC BY VOTE OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

FIRST, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT MEMBERSHIP IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNESCO IS NOT A PREREQUISITE OF MEMBERSHIP IN IOC AND IN FACT AT THIS TIME THERE ARE SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF IOC, BUT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF UNESCO.

THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES THIS AMENDMENT BECAUSE IT CONTRAVENES THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AS POINTED OUT BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS AND IMPLIES THE APPLICATION OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE IOC THAT ARE EXTRANEIOUS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF IOC ACTIVITIES, THE AMENDMENT DOES NOT SPECIFY THE GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES NOR DOES IT PROVIDE FOR SUCH SUSPENSION BY A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00
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THIS PROPOSAL GOES FURTHER IN RELATION TO ACTION ON
SUSPENSION THAN EITHER THE UNESCO CONSTITUTION AND THE
UN CHARTER. THUS, SUSPENSION IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER
AND A PROPOSAL BY IOC TO ACT EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVELY
TOWARD ITS MEMBERS THAN EITHER THE UN OR UNESCO SEEMS
HARDLY IN LINE WITH THE SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND
ACTIVITIES OF THE IOC.

IN THE FIRST DECADE OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE IOC HAS
BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN AND NURTURE ITS SCIENTIFIC IN-
TEGRITY. IN OUR VIEW, SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION FROM THIS
ONGOING POSTURE CAN ONLY SERIOUSLY WEAKEN THE IOC'S
CAPABILITY TO LEAD THE WAY TO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE AND
UNDERSTAND THE WORLD'S OCEANS. WE VIEW THIS PROPOSAL
WITH SADNESS BECAUSE OF THE DIVISIVENESS WHICH MAY
DEVELOP FROM IT.

THE THINGS I HAVE DISCUSSED TO THIS POINT HAVE DEALT
WITH OUR INTERESTS IN FURTHERING AND PROTECTING
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF
THE OCEANS FOR EVERYONE'S WELFARE. THESE THINGS ARE
INDEPENDENT OF THE RACIAL POLICIES OF SOUTH AFRICA.
WE WISH TO REAFFIRM AGAIN OUR ABHORRENCE OF THE
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APARTHEID POLICY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. OUR
GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED THE FEELING OF OUR PEOPLE ON
THIS MATTER IN VARIOUS APPROPRIATE FORA IN THE PAST

AND WE DO SO AGAIN ONLY TO MAKE SURE OUR ATTITUDE IS
NOT MISUNDERSTOOD IN DEALING WITH THE PROPOSAL BEFORE
US IN THIS BODY. IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT THE IOC -
A SCIENTIFIC BODY - IS NEITHER A COMPETENT NOR AN
APPROPRIATE FORUM IN WHICH TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.

FOR THESE REASONS, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO OPPOSE
AGGRESSIVELY THIS PROPOSAL."
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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